The evening of March 21, 2000, proved to be an informative and enjoyable event for the Palouse Country Home Educators as they gathered for their 4th annual Science Fair held at the Palouse Federated Church. Fifteen students made presentations as family and friends gathered around each exhibit.

Joseph and William Parker, ages 5 and 7, told us about "Your Five Senses" and how the sensory messages travel to certain parts of the brain. Jasyn Gilbertson, 7th grade, presented information and a model of Neptune. (Did you know Neptune had a "great dark spot" large enough to engulf all of the earth which vanished in 1994?) Rachel Witthuhn, 3rd grade, made models of the heart and lungs and was herself a "red blood cell" recounting her travels through the body. Tyler Witthuhn, 5th grade, explained Newton's 3rd Law of Motion with rollerblades and a medicine ball (don't try this at home). Kevin Martin, age 5, showed us his poster of the food pyramid and explained appropriate nutrition choices. Emily Witthuhn, 1st grade, informed us about olfactory nerves and offered the audience to participate in a matching game using the sense of smell. Tiffany Greenwalt, 5th grade, gave a presentation on "Why Airplanes Fly", correcting some misconceptions we may have had. Joshua Gilbertson, 5th grade, told us how, in 1980, Mt. St. Helens went from Washington State's 5th highest peak to the 30th highest peak and had a model for us to see. (Did you know the Mt. St. Helens eruption was 2000X stronger than the atom bomb dropped on Hiroshima?) Chris Gilbertson, 5th grade, spoke to us about different species of whales. (Did you know blue whales have hearts as big as Volkswagens?) Annika Wallace, 3rd grade, explained what the difference was between vibration and resonance in her presentation on "Sound" and had two hands-on experiments for the audience to participate in. Garren Wallace, Kindergarten, gave a demonstration on "Hearing", while Sterling Wallace, age 3, showed us his poster on "Rainbows". Rylan Wallace, 6th grade, explained the uses of echolocation and other creature features during his presentation on "The Amazing Dolphin". Erin Witthuhn, 1st grade, demonstrated sound waves using marbles and how a "sound cannon" can blow out a candle. Travis Mallett, 3rd grade, defined and demonstrated laser light and its uses for the audience. (Did you know art experts use lasers for cleaning ancient marble statues?) Trisha Mallett, 2nd grade, had a number of hands-on experiments with batteries; even one made at home with copper, lead, tin, and strips of cloths between the metals soaked in lemon juice. (Did you know the first battery was invented in 1800?)

Chris, Joshua, and Jaysn are the sons of Jeff and Debbie Gilbertson of Garfield. Tiffany is the daughter of Herb and Kim Greenwalt of Palouse. Travis and Trisha are the children of Clay and Kristi Mallett of Palouse. Kevin is the son of Greg and Phyllis Martin of Pullman. William and Joseph are the sons of Eric and Elaine Parker of Palouse. Rylan, Annika, Garren, and Sterling are the children of Jim and Jill Wallace of Garfield. Tyler, Rachel, Emily, and Erin are the children of Steve and Donna Witthuhn of Palouse.